

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Erik Leonard Hoffman	)	Examiner: David C. Comstock
	)	
Serial No.: 10/037,318	)	Art Unit: 3733
	)	
Filed: November 7, 2001	)	Conf. No.: 4521
	)	
Title: FASTENING ELEMENT FOR AN	)	
IMPLANT, IN PARTICULAR A HIP	)	
PROSTHESIS	)	

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Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 31, 2006. Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.